

BREDENBURY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 28th January 2026 at 7.00pm

At

Bredenbury Village Hall

A period of reflection was held prior to the meeting to remember Councillor and friend Becca Libby

Present: Councillors: Geoff Arnold, Richard Bell, Jane Berwick, Hugh Farey, John Hulse

In attendance: Ward Councillor Bruce Baker, Clerk Vicky Hancock, 3 local residents

1. Apologies for absence: Councillor Piggott to arrive later

2. Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation: Cllr Farey declared an interest on Item 7 Planning and signed the book accordingly.

3. To consider the minutes of the previous meeting: Parish Council Meeting 17th December 2025. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt these minutes and they were signed by the chairman.

4. Open Session

4.1 Views of local residents

- Felling of trees on Valley View. Cllr Arnold to gain clarification from HC regarding which trees have a TPO on them as there seems to be some discrepancy.
- Residents on Valley View have requested the grit bin at the top of the road to be refilled. There is also a request for a grit bin at the end of Valley View. Clerk to follow up.
- A complaint about dog poo on the corner of Valley View. It was suggested it would be better to speak to the owner of the dog if they could be identified.
- Unsightly cars parked at Silvertop. This has been brought to the attention of the PC previously and there was no evidence of trading going on. To follow-up parking on the pavement which is impeding a resident driving their vehicles to the drop kerb.
- Complaint regarding the stones across the threshold of the community car park becoming unsafe. This is not in the ownership of the PC therefore the complaint needs to be addressed to the church.

4.2 Ward Cllr Baker report

- 100 miles of roads have been resurfaced last year .Road improvements to be continued this year
- Government funding has been withdrawn for a new special school to be built
- Rural authorities are receiving less funding than urban ones
- HC Budget meeting to be held in February.4.9% increase in council tax under discussion
- Business rates for pubs under discussion
- Public Realm contract. Balfour Beatty contract to finish on 1st June. New contract awarded to M Group Highways Ltd for highways, street lighting, green spaces and drainage. Other areas to be covered in-house by Herefordshire Council
- 30 minute free parking in all council car parks to be introduced from April 2026
- Children's Services received a good Ofsted report in their latest inspection with outstanding leadership
- Trail – hunting HC to appeal to government against banning this

There being no questions the Chairman thanked Ward Cllr Baker for his comprehensive report.

(Items 7 & 8 taken out of order as Cllr Baker needed to leave the meeting early) (Cllr Piggott arrived at 7.45pm)

5. Budget Monitoring The Clerk shared the budget monitoring for January. Clerk noted that expenditure was on track to the end of the financial year. Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept the monitoring and Cllr Hulse signed the document.

6. Finance

6.1 Clerk shared bank statement to 31st December 2025. Opening balance £7648.26 and closing balance £6301.10. Noted and signed by Cllr Piggott.

6.2 Clerk shared the Bank Reconciliations for 31st December. There being no unpresented cheques closing balance £6302.10. Noted and signed by Cllr Piggott.

6.3 To **note** payment already made: V Hancock Defib Store £79.20 to replace pads for Defib.

6.4 It was **RESOLVED** to agree the following payment: Clerk's January salary & note assessment report re: workplace pension

6.5 The Clerk has submitted a VAT Reclaim to HMRC for £292.11

6.6 NatWest Bank bereavement service contacted Cllr Hulse to send condolences on the passing of Mrs Rebecca Libby. Cllr Libby was a signatory on the bank mandate therefore she has been removed. The two remaining signatories comply with the account signing rules. Cllr Hulse put the Clerk forward as the third signatory this was **AGREED**. It was noted that the Financial Regulations would need to be changed before changing the bank mandate.

7. Planning P242822/F Bredenbury Court Bredenbury HR7 4TD. Re-instatement of a historic track and pathway linked to a new centralised car park with landscaping works. Copies of reports from the Conservation Officer, the Landscaping Officer together with a map were shared with the Councillors. Following discussion councillors agreed to continue to **SUPPORT** the application. Further representation should be made confirming this and pointing out that there is a need for a balanced view of all our NDP policies.

8. Wacton Lane Cllr Hulse told the council that the state of the road surface on the lane has now become exceedingly dangerous and resurfacing is crucial. Vehicles avoiding potholes are taking to the verges and causing further deterioration. He reminded councillors there had already been two serious accidents attributed to the state of the road. Ward Cllr Baker was asked if he could make representation regarding this situation. Grit bins have been checked and refilled.

9. Herefordshire Council The issue regarding the deterioration of the white-lining on the road has been reported to Herefordshire Council. They are **FULLY** aware and the contractors will reinstate them when the weather improves. The TRO is still on track and working its way through the system.

10. NDP As the current NDP still has full weight it would be sensible to wait until 6 weeks prior to the 5 year anniversary before requesting a withdrawal of the unmade plan.

11. Correspondence Letter received from West Mercia to inform residents that on 19 January West Mercia Police adopted a new operating model, transitioning from five local policing areas (LPAs) to two. This new structure — Shropshire & Telford, and Herefordshire & Worcestershire — is designed to strengthen resilience, improve coordination and ensure resources are focused where they are needed most. The force's current structure had been in place since 2018 and, following feedback from the public, opportunities to improve how the force works and responds to demand were identified. Every community within West Mercia Police will continue to have a named local officer.

12. Matters for the next meeting

- Planning
- Roads/TRO
- NDP
- Bromyard Ring

13. Meeting dates agreed

(note no March Meeting)

Wednesday 25th February 2026 @ 7.00pm

Wednesday 1st April 2026 @ 7.00pm

Wednesday 29th April 2026 @ 7.00pm

Wednesday 27th May 2026 @ 7.00pm

The Meeting Closed at 8.05pm